

MINUTES

Health Information Technology and Transparency Advisory Board and Ad Hoc Expert Meeting

Transparency Standing Committee
Georgia Tech Research Institute
250 14th Street, N.W., Atlanta, GA
Executive Board Conference Room
March 21, 2007
9:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Member Attendance:

Marsha Burke
Laura Linn
Sonya Smith

Monye Connolly
Doug Moses
Dennis L. White

Chris Downing
Dr. Louvenia A. Rainge

The Transparency Committee meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Chris Downing. A quorum of attendees was present. The Chair motioned for the previous minutes to be approved. The minutes were seconded and approved. Chair Downing announced for an Advisory Board or Ad Hoc participant to volunteer to be the Secretary for the committee. Laura Linn volunteered to be the Committee Secretary. The Chair discussed the restructure of the committee into four subcommittees: Pharmacy, Health Plans, Long-term Care and Hospital/Ambulatory Services. There have been Chairs designated for each subcommittee except for Hospital/Ambulatory Services. The Chair is currently working on filing that position.

Chair Downing turned the meeting over to Diane Manheim, *Transparency Project Manager* with the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH) to present to the committee a presentation entitled, "HITT Transparency Committee: Proposed Structure and Objectives". The presentation is also available on the DCH Web site at www.dch.ga.gov. Diane mentioned to the committee that they would need to vote on the structure of the subcommittees. The committee did note that they would like to include Individual Practitioners and Ancillary Services in the future as subcommittees. The committee also decided that the Transparency Mission Statement and Proposed Guidelines need to have some modifications. The committee agreed they did not want to duplicate any efforts from another state or Web site.

In developing the Web site the committee would like to see that the efforts are being made to attract the consumer and get the consumer more involved with their health care. Committee member Doug Moses suggested outreaching to consumers to see what they would like to see on the front end on the Web site.

Robert Rozier, *Executive Director of Health Planning*, of DCH briefly discussed the House Bill 628, which was offered by Representative Sheldon, *Vice Chair of the*

Majority Caucus and House. The bill requested various data by providers be made available to DCH. The bill initially required that providers be required to submit their data to the Department. The feedback from rural physicians provided that some would have a difficulty in submitting such data. The bill was adopted by the House committee on March 20, 2007, but the requirement that providers submit data was removed. The bill must also be presented to the Senate, which could reverse thus requiring providers to submit data. If the Senate's version was to prevail then the committee would like to have one of their main subcommittee focuses be on Individual Practitioners. The bill would provide the Department with the legal authority to require providers to submit data, but at this time there is no legal authority. The Department is able to obtain data resources from providers' claims data, Medicaid claims data and State Health Benefits Plan (SHBP) claims data. Universal claims data would not be available. For these reasons, the committee has not formed a subcommittee around Individual Practitioners. This subcommittee could be a focus at a later time.

Matt Jarrard, *Statistical Unit Chief*, of DCH presented a data grid entitled, "Georgia Healthcare Transparency Initiative Preliminary Data Components and Sources". This data grid provides what resources and information are available to DCH and other government agencies, as well as, information that would need to be collected or obtained from external partners. The committee discussed alternative opportunities the Department may be able to obtain data. The committee briefly reviewed the potential legal impediments and disclosures required for utilizing the data. The data was primarily presented to the committee for review of what information may be available for their subcommittees and how this information may or may not be useful to consumers.

Prior to the next meeting, the Pharmacy and Hospital subcommittees should take the time to review other Pharmacy and Hospital transparency Web sites developed to get an idea of what information and approach Georgia should take to start a roadmap. The subcommittees will continue to convene prior to the next meeting to provide a status update to the Transparency Committee.

The Transparency Committee was adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

THESE MINUTES ARE HEREBY APPROVED AND ADOPTED THE
_____ DAY OF _____, 2007.

Chris Downing, Committee Chairperson

Laura Linn, Committee Secretary